Between the Lines

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Future Army

In the midst of the drum beating for a huge post-war Army, Chief of Staff General George Marshall wrecked the whole noisy symphony of America's military extremists by announcing that the maintenance of a huge American peace-time Army would be nonsense, but that a small, highly skilled regular Army with large citizen reserves would be both practical and democratic. No protest has been voiced regarding this undoubtedly expert opinion, although some Congressmen have asked for further details concerning General Marshall's reasons for believing that a large standing Army "has no place among the institutions of a modern democratic state."

Peace-time conscription periodically comes to the fore in Congress, but in view of the coming elections it is being temporarily pushed aside. Members of the House of Representatives Post-War Military Committee believe, however, that definite action will have been taken on the matter by the end of the year.

General Marshall's statement is a refreshing note in the midst of war and military hysteria. There is real reason for the Christian layman to salute the flag with greater pride than ever before because the traditions of a Christian, humanitarian doctrine still have the ascendancy in our democracy over the drum-beaters and demagogues.

No Food for Poland

Reports from diplomatic circles indicate that UNRRA relief foodstuffs are being barred from Poland because Russian officials are withholding permission for such supplies to be sent to any area except that already in the hands of the Red Army. Apparently the Soviet has forgotten her pledge that political considerations would in no way affect UNRRA relief shipments, that "at no time shall relief and rehabilitation supplies be used as a political weapon, and no discrimination . . . be made in the distribution of relief supplies because of race, creed or political belief."

Allied leaders openly admit that, after five years of famine during which ten million people, a fifth of them Jews, perished, the need for food in Poland is desperate. However, the only way of entering Poland is through Russian-held territory, and top-ranking UNRRA men say that the Russians are waiting to send relief until the

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CHRIST NEVER HAD a desk, or a budget, or an executive committee to present a program to His constituency. But He had a cross. There is nothing wrong with a desk or a budget or an executive committee, but there is always something wrong when there is no cross.

X-Ray and Forecast

Here is the big story behind some of the recent important diplomatic meetings, such as the Roosevelt-Churchill Quebec conference,—a story which has been suppressed except for a very few heroic exceptions. It was officially claimed that Churchill and Roosevelt met to discuss the Pacific war, but while this military problem obviously *was* discussed, the thing which sent Churchill scurrying over to America ahead of schedule was the unfavorable (and hushed-up) turn of affairs—political and economic—in Europe. As we have continuously reported to our readers, the whole Churchill program is *to keep in positions of power the big European banking families, and the big international industrialists who have given full cooperation to the Nazis and fascists and are now very eager to continue to cooperate with Britain as they have been doing in many ways even during the war.* But, as we have also informed our readers, things have gone badly in Italy. Churchill learned on his recent trip there that the whole London-forced political-economic set up is resting uneasily on a seething left-wing revolt as hot and violent as Vesuvius.

French Revolt

Free French forces have also got out of the control of the London-Washington authorities who had hoped to guide France's return to normalcy safely away from any popular revolutionary pro-communist uprising. *The news from France has almost completely ignored the fact that a reign of terror has spread over much of liberated France.* The freedom-loving French have broken the tidy barriers with which Churchill had thought to hold them. After years of London's building up de Gaulle as a "safe" leader for the restoration of France, de Gaulle is suddenly discovered to be only a cork bobbing on turbulent stormy waters. So far all signs indicate that France is going left. Socialists and communists are rapidly consolidating power; de Gaulle may swing in with them, but whether he does or not, a powerful move is on completely to socialize France, to nationalize the banks, the railroads and all the big industries.

German Revolt

Underground reports from Germany now indicate that a powerful socialist-communist group is congealing under the crumbling Nazi structure.

A Socialist Europe

Churchill rushed to America to confer with FDR. Stalin was officially invited, and the whole situation was highlighted by his curt refusal on the grounds that he was too busy!

These developments accurately fulfill forecasts we've given our readers during many months. Our sources further advise that the socialist-communist rumblings in Europe are not so much promoted and prompted by Stalin as they are by the fact that the *common people of Europe are turning toward the Soviet as the only real source of encouragement and guidance available to them.* In other words, Stalin has let Churchill play out his hand, with FDR tagging along. Stalin realized that the natural aftermath of the war and the backward British policy would bring the swing toward the left, leaving Moscow in a position, not as instigator of European turmoil, but as helper and guide of the European masses. What that situation is doing to temperatures around London and the Vatican you may well imagine!

Moscow Move

In connection with this, Moscow has broadcast to the world recently that in liberated Poland, where the Red Army is in control, all land formerly held by the rich aristocracy is to be liquidated and, on December 20, will be redistributed to the landless peasants and tenant farmers. What is more, under the terms of the decree nothing will be paid to the owners of the land, but each poor peasant household or farm laborer household will receive five hectares of land, (12.35 acres), and will pay for it in cash or produce only to the total price value of one year's average harvest on the land received. Payments will be spread over a period of ten to twenty years. Can't you see what

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No Food for Poland

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questions concerning Poland's government leaders and boundary lines are settled to Russia's satisfaction, and pro-Soviet policies established and safe-guarded.

Wartime Romance

All hushed up from public notice is the fact that one little American citizen has caused more trouble to our official propagandists and war morale builders than several dozen Nazi agents. Our officials realize that what the women of America—the sweethearts, sisters and mothers of the men in service, to say nothing of their wives—think and feel is very important. Public morale can go bingo there faster and more devastatingly than on any other psychological front.

Well, little cupid is the unpredictable, uncontrollable mischief-maker who has furrowed the foreheads of prominent Washingtonians. American boys are incurably romantic. They fall in love, and gals of all nationalities fall in love with them—in Australia, Iceland, Ireland, England, France. You have no idea how tightly our censors have held down the lid on all reports of romance among the American forces scattered abroad. In all the quantities of war fiction in magazines and books involving the inevitable love plot, stories are rarely told about the handsome young American lieutenant and his Irish sweetie or Australian flame. If there is anything that would bust up the steady calm of the home front, so largely governed by feminine hearts, it would be the idea that the lads are having a whoopsie good time—with lasting results—with the blondes and brunettes of the other United Nations.

When finally the inevitable happened and a shipload of brides and their babies was ready to go to America so the girls could visit their new in-laws and settle down in the land of milk and honey until their husbands were through with war, the headaches and travail in official Washington censorship quarters were really something. Some of these officials who had had no newspaper experience actually thought that they could completely suppress reports about the love cargos. But the boys who knew news when they saw it just laughed and said, "If you think you can suppress a story like that—a whole shipload of brides and babies—you'd better just give up and go shoot yourself." And some of them nearly did—for that story couldn't be suppressed, the very winds would tell it.

X-Ray and Forecast

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effect one broadcast like that has over Europe's millions? The trouble in America is that every time Churchill or Eden make a speech their pictures and words are spread all over the papers, not only because of pressure from Washington but because rich publishers also get the jitters when they see little items like the above from Poland. As a result, the Americans get the impression that Churchill and Roosevelt have the world by the ears, and the average citizen today thus carries a very warped and inaccurate picture of what is really happening.

Pope Aware

The Pope gave evidence of his awareness and fear of the sizzling situation in his recent broadcast when he asked for recognition of the rights of private property. You will note, however, that Stalin is not collectivizing the soil of his newly gained Polish areas as he did the soil of Russia. He is redistributing it to the peasants as plots for individual ownership.

Post-War World

We need a clear, long look at the post-war world,—which can come down on us very quickly now. A good many different viewpoints are being voiced hinging on the new "free enterprise" publicity formula of big business, and there are other viewpoints threatening dire consequences if their side is not elected. From a cross section of reports from some of America's leading economists, sociologists and political scientists, the following outline of developments will quite likely come near the truth, and can be of considerable value to many of us in planning our personal affairs.

Wage Increases

We will soon see an intensive drive on by labor unions all over the country for wage increases—especially as war production is cut back and as the forty-eight hour week is lifted, as it will be soon after Germany's defeat.

Red Bands

Reports received through labor channels tell of a new force rising within Germany which originates on the battlefields and threatens to replace the existing order. Unchallenged masters of the hinterland are the veterans of the Russian front. They are easily distinguished throughout Germany by the red bands they wear on their uniforms. They openly disregard military discipline; they do not salute their officers on trains or on the streets, and their officers make no attempt to enforce regulations. Evidently the Nazis recognize that these eastern front fighters represent a new element coming to power in the Reich.

Clergy and Labor

A. W. Taylor, correspondent for The Christian Century, reports that the Sunday session of the recent Tennessee CIO convention opened with prayer and a devotional address. This convention condemned discrimination for wage earners because of race, creed or nationality.

Mr. Taylor also reports that clergymen, both Protestant and Catholic, helped defeat a vicious anti-labor bill promoted by reactionary forces in the Louisiana state legislature; and that in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the CIO, because of its anti-discrimination policy, defeated an attempt made by the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company to organize the Negro pastors of the city against unionism.

Future Fashions

Ever since the fall of France, American dress manufacturers, designers and milliners have carried on a determined effort to see to it that the center of fashions remain in New York and not return to Paris. However, did you notice that as soon as Paris was liberated American news correspondents took one look at the French girls and cried, "Whoops, look at that cute dress; and they sure know how to wear a hat!" The New York designers have already given up and are standing in line for a seat on the first plane abroad.

But what the average American man wants to know is this: Does this shift now mean that women's hats will get cheaper and more practical, or funnier and more expensive?

Big Four Liquor Monopoly

Four large whisky companies are taking advantage of war-time conditions to build up a monopoly control of the country's liquor business. A report presented to a Senate committee established to investigate the alcoholic beverage industry claims that the "Big Four," (Seagram, Ltd., National

and babies—you'd better just give up and go shoot yourself." And some of them nearly did—for that story couldn't be suppressed, the very winds would tell it.

Now the situation is getting even worse! The Army wants it clearly understood that we must expect the boys to stay in France and Germany and elsewhere a long time after the war—there must be none of this silly talk about bringing the boys home by this Christmas or the next Christmas. Frantic Congressmen are already calling the War Department and saying, "If you let another ship load of brides and babies land on this sacred shore, you're going to have to bring home that whole darned Army and find a new one someplace else." The Congressmen aren't kidding, and if you could see the basketsful of letters on some of their desks, you'd realize the lady voters aren't kidding either.

A good many Congressmen already have motto cards hanging above their desks among the "Keep Smiling," and "We Live to Serve" types. The new motto cards say, "Never underestimate the power of the women"—and we suspect several of our learned legislators have sent framed mementos expressing a similar sentiment to the War Department, hoping a few little seeds of human understanding may take root even on that stony ground.

Casualties

Of the Japanese-American citizens serving in the United States Army, 45 have been killed in action in Italy, and 92 have been wounded and two reported missing in action. Close friends and relatives of these nisei casualties feel that they died not only for their country but also to win acceptance as Americans from all other Americans.

Message

The Quakers are still active in Berlin and have sent messages to this country "in sincere friendship." They remind Friends everywhere that never were the teachings of Jesus so applicable as now. "Remove the beam from your own eye; return good for evil; love your neighbor as yourself; let him that is without sin cast the first stone; he who loses his life for my sake shall find it."

These Quakers also write: "God grant that this war may plow up our souls so deeply that new life may spring up and ripen. For the very reason that men are experiencing death in such dreadful measure, there lives in their tortured souls the fervent longing for new life."

HE IS NEEDED ON ALL FRONTIERS

One of the world's most beautiful legends is that a monumental figure of Christ, placed on the frontiers of two formerly belligerent nations, has brought peace since that day to these two peoples. If that is true, couldn't we afford to take a slight amount from the vast sluice funds of war expenditures and lift this arresting, haunting figure on a hundred other frontiers where men are fighting, women are weeping,—and have been fighting and weeping intermittently for many years? Of course there would be objections to the scheme, because it would rebuke long established systems of political control, embarrass empires and quite generally play havoc with the status quo. Nevertheless, there will be no peace until He has been lifted over these frontiers one way or another.

After European Peace

It is now widely accepted that the end of the war in Europe will be expected to cause considerable unemployment for a few months. Within six months reconversion to civilian goods production will probably have progressed sufficiently for some replacement in peace-time employment.

After Pacific Peace

When the war in the Pacific ends there will be little added unemployment, although most experts believe we will have four to five million unemployed almost continually after the European war ends. But while unemployment is not expected to become too serious for a few years, there will be an unprecedented amount of labor strife. Strikes and general industrial conflicts will prevail as labor struggles to retain wartime gains and industry endeavors to hold the initiative on production control.

Post-War Boom

As soon as reconversion to civilian production has been accomplished, we will see a full-sized boom throughout the country. In spite of some considerable unemployment, wages will continue high, and, notwithstanding the waves of strikes that will seriously cripple business activity, the enormous production of consumers goods this country will achieve will go far beyond anything in the world's history. We will have a period of three to four years of continued prosperity strangely mixed with industrial strife and a certain amount of unemployment.

Post-War Bust

Estimates indicate that after approximately four years, maybe sooner, civilian needs will have reached the saturation point. The crucial period will begin then. For months in advance both labor and industry will realize that the crisis is coming,—in fact they already do,—and great efforts will be made on both sides to dig in deeper for control of the American system of life.

Political Side

The political side of this is all to the left. If Roosevelt is elected he is expected to prepare the way for a complete socialization of the country when the time comes that the consumer market is saturated and boom buying begins to recede. There is no doubt that *some such mutual understanding has already underwritten the New Deal-CIO plan of cooperation* so clearly in effect now. Some authorities say the consumer saturation point will come in two years because of the vastly increased powers of production that the war has brought to us, *but you can be sure that the most important economic crisis of the American twentieth century will come when civilian goods buying, after catching up on war created shortages, begins to fall back to normal maintenance schedules, and the profit system of capitalism must either hedge on its production schedules and curtail its expenditures for employment to protect profits, or surrender itself to some plan of production for consumption—whether profits accrue or not out of such enforced operation. That point, whenever it begins to appear on the horizon, is the hour of decision we will have to face.*

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liquor business. A report presented to a Senate committee established to investigate the alcoholic beverage industry claims that the "Big Four," (Seagram, Ltd., National Distillers Products Corp., Schenley Distillers Corp., and Hiram Walker-Gooderham and Worts, Ltd.), have been gaining the ownership or control of a substantial portion of the liquor industry in the United States, and have been capitalizing upon the war need for production of industrial alcohol to acquire small distilleries and remove them from competition under the guise of wishing to increase production of industrial alcohol for the war program.

This group of four companies, from 1939 to 1943, produced 60 per cent of the whisky manufactured in this country. In that same period of time, these same four firms showed an increase of 127,066,629 gallons of whisky on hand, all gained from outside sources, including 24 distilleries purchased during that period. An advertisement published late in 1943 stated "frankly" that only 203,000,000 gallons of whisky were available, whereas actually the number of gallons available was almost 150,000,000 greater than the published figure.

The report, discussing a system of voluntary liquor rationing by the liquor manufacturers, declares that in the case of some of the more important companies profits were rationed instead of the liquor. Aged whiskies were held back and inferior brands were distributed at higher prices.

"It is obvious," states the report, "that the large distillers wish to retain substantial stocks of aged whiskies in their bonded warehouses until after the war, so that they will be in better position to command higher prices and realize greater profits at the expense of an unsuspecting public whom the liquor industry had hoped would be educated into the belief that the 'alleged' whisky shortage was not the fault of the liquor industry."

Branding "many activities and practices" of the entire liquor industry "reprehensible," the report criticizes certain federal departments and agencies for showing "little concern over the problem" and a "lack of intelligence and forthright approach" which have served to aggravate conditions. The Treasury Department is accused of laxity in enforcing statutes against interlocking directorates in the liquor industry, by this laxity allowing the Big Four to gain considerable control. The Justice Department was urged to take the necessary steps to prevent the formation of a liquor monopoly, and the OPA was advised to issue regulations to force out aged whiskies and cause a relaxation of the present severe self-imposed rationing.

Deteriorating Diplomacy

America's relationship with China continues to be one of duplicity and political temporizing, the whole pattern of which is kept carefully shielded from public knowledge. While our official spokesmen have for years boasted of our great friendship and admiration for the Chinese people, the facts are these:

1. We sympathized with the Chinese and raised money for China's war sufferers, but we supplied the Japanese military machine with money loans and materials in an almost steady stream until 1940 and early 1941, and we continued much of this help to Japan under cover until Pearl Harbor.

2. After Pearl Harbor we pledged that we would cease to pour out war munitions to Japan and turn the flood of our material aid to China. This pledge was never actually realized because the British were permitted to scrutinize our assignments to China as the shipments passed through India for trans-shipment via Burma. For some as yet unexplained reason, the British were permitted to use such of these shipments (designated to China) as they desired to protect British India and Burma against the Japanese. As a result, only a small trickle of United States defense materials have ever reached China, and mountains of such supplies are stacked up in India where they have not been and may never be used—except possibly to hold down rebellious Hindus and Burmese.

3. While this double-deal was going on, Roosevelt and other officials of America kept broadcasting to the American public absolutely false reports of American aid to China. When they were confronted with Chinese resentment at the small amount of supplies which were reaching China, they only pretended surprise and lack of adequate information.

4. As the British-American war plan develops against Japan, it has become increasingly evident that little effort, beyond token forces, is to be made to relieve and strengthen China. The major attack will be made from the sea, closing in gradually upon Japan from island to island. This means that we are now attacking the Japanese on their strongest front, ignoring what the Chinese (and many of our own military strategists) believe to be our quickest and most economical path of action,—through China proper to the China Sea, a route that would offer us access to the unlimited manpower of China, and would vastly curtail the cost in life and treasure to the American people. The route through China has been opposed by British and Dutch imperialists because it would create a strong China, and the whole imperial policy of Britain and the Netherlands is to keep China weak.

5. In the meantime, President Roosevelt, to balance the situation, has taken the lead in recognizing China's right to a place in the big-power group of nations, and has carried on this insistence against the steady opposition of the Dutch, British and French imperialists. The United States has also led the way in denouncing the special treaty rights and extra-territoriality forced from China at the point of a sword by white powers during the past. Chiang Kai-shek wrote a book which freely expressed his opinions about the British and Dutch imperialists, and white men, their policies and practices, in general. This book has been honored by complete suppression in America; our State Department being credited with the prevention of its translation into English.

This United States policy of double dealing with China, beside the open dirty deal the Dutch, British and French imperialists have always given China, has caused a steady deterioration of the political and economic situation within the Chungking government. President Roosevelt, following his well-known formula of trying to be "all things to all men," has been sending off to China official American visitors laden with words of good will and felicitations which the Chinese have begun to look upon with more and more incredulity and suspicion, especially since it has become known that our clever president has been using these missions to Chungking for political "snipe hunting" while the emissaries were having their political geese cooked at home. We have heard that Chinese officials in Chungking are considering meeting American good will delegates with wreaths of welcome festooned with white crepe—white being the color of mourning in China.

What is most important, the American people do not realize the fact that our relations with China have so seriously declined. Suppression of truth and wide publication of misleading half-truths have kept the American people believing they were giving great aid to China. This will not aid an understanding between these two great people who, if they were treated fairly and honestly, would hold great natural affection and respect for each other.

X-Ray and Forecast

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Some authorities say television, housing programs and other inventions and progressive production developments can keep the slack in employment from becoming serious. However, even scientific production engineers in the employment of big corporations frankly admit that American industrial production capacity is now so huge that, with the "scarce-economy-profit" system of the past, it would take a population of 300 million to keep all of our present facilities employed at full capacity. Hence the sociologists and economists say that, since we can't increase our population that much in the next five years (!), we will have to double the purchasing power of the average American family.

Did you know that, even with a war-time boom, the *average* American family has only approximately $1,800 a year to spend? Most sociologists say that a family of four cannot live a full life in today's America on less than $4000 a year; so there are many men in the government at Washington today working out plans and publicity within the framework of that economic picture against the hour when America must choose.

The spiritual implications in this vista are both challenging and alarming,—alarming if a materialistic philosophy governs this evolution of America life such as is now largely the case in spite of the formal bouquets our present political leaders occasionally toss onto the desks of official religious dignitaries. It will take a daring, practical type of religion to meet the days that are coming.

Partitioning Poland

Beneath all the white and shining promises of a better world of freedom and liberty, our leaders are playing up to war weary people. Here are two disturbing facts that reveal the deception and hypocrisy we must realize continues to bar our way to real peace: In India men and women are still in prison without a trial, or even a hearing, because they have said they want to be free; school boys and girls are shot down in the streets if they dare to march with banners saying they want to be free. And in Poland, as The Progressive put it: "'The fate of Poland is being settled, not by common action of the United Nations, and still less by the Polish people themselves. But it is being settled in a small room in the Kremlin where Premier Mikolajczyk faces Joseph Stalin. Just as, in prewar Europe, the heads of small states had to go to Berchtesgaden to learn the fate which awaited their countries, so the Polish premier has at last gone to Moscow."

And while we were told that our statesmen are working out the peace, the London Economist, an authoritative British journal, carried an amazingly frank report recently that British and American statesmen have already agreed on "a peace of indemnities, reparations, annexations of territory, and transfers of population."

The most important annexations foreshadowed in the report cover East Prussia, part of which, with Koenigsberg, is to go to Russia, while the rest, together with large slices of Pomerania and Silesia, is to be Poland's share.

"Parts of Western Germany, it seems, are to be annexed to France, Belgium and Holland.

"In some areas, for example in East Prussia and possibly all along the Polish-German frontier, the annexations will be accompanied by massive transfers of German inhabitants either to Germany or to forced labor abroad. The Sudetenland will also, it appears, be cleared of Germans."

Millions of people will be moved around just as Hitler did it! (Has anyone heard anything lately about the Atlantic Charter?) Remember the excerpt just quoted is the voice of London reporting, —Washington reporters cool their heels waiting for little tid-bits of information about peace settlements from the Dumbarton Oaks conference.